

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

A. Akinyemi

my wife told me, "Oh, you have to remove your shoes. You have to remove your shoes and remove everything you have." Like my watch and everything. I said, "Oh, this is the new law now." So she -- from there she just went inside and I was still on the line and I went through the metal detector and push everything through.

Q. And your wife went around TSA security?

A. Yes.

Q. So she went in an area where --

A. I don't know how she went because I was on the line, but I know I met her inside.

Q. You met her back in the gate area?

A. No. I met her inside.

Q. What do you mean by inside?

A. Inside this, after the metal detector.

Q. Did your wife carry anything with her when she went around security that you took with you on the plane?

A. Not at all.

Q. What happened after you met back with your wife inside after TSA security? What

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

A. Akinyemi

did you do?

A. She was just, you know, we were just talking, talking to me. You know, just consoling me.

Q. Did you go to the gate area?

A. Did I go to the gate area?

Q. Yes.

A. Where is the gate area?

Q. Where you board the plane.

A. At that time, no. I was at the waiting area where you sit down before you board the plane.

Q. How long were you there for?

A. I would say I was there for -- at that time she had already left. So at that time I was there waiting I would say for -- I can't remember. But I was like the last person there to go in.

Q. So after you met your wife back inside, after the security --

A. Yeah. We spoke for about five minutes and she said she had to go. Because probably she had to go back to work or something.

Q. So your wife left and you stayed and

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

A. Akinyemi

sat and waited?

A. Yes.

Q. Did there come a time when you got up to board the plane?

A. To board the plane, yeah.

Q. And tell me what happened after you got up and went to board the plane?

A. When I got up to board the plane the airline tear my boarding pass and give me the other one to go inside, and after that I went in.

Q. Other than having someone take your boarding pass, did you speak with anyone before you boarded the plane?

A. No. I didn't speak to nobody.

Q. Did you speak to a CBP officer, that you recall?

MR. OKOLI: Before you went to board the plane.

A. Before I went to board the plane?

No.

Q. And then you boarded the plane?

A. No.

Q. What happened?

A. What happened was like in the middle

1 A. Akinyemi

2 of the tunnel, like you go down, you have to go  
3 through before you make a left and go up a little  
4 bit inside the plane. At the middle of that  
5 tunnel I found the money in my -- I realized that  
6 I have the \$150 in my wallet to give back to my  
7 cousin who had paid for my excess luggage. Inside  
8 the tunnel my phone doesn't have a -- what do you  
9 call it? My phone is not working. So I had to go  
10 back out, out of the gate to the waiting area. I  
11 am getting to the waiting area with the intention  
12 of asking the officers, can I use your phone?

13 At that time, my phone started  
14 working. I believe it's the tunnel that doesn't  
15 have a signal. So I started working and I was  
16 like, "Oh, excuse me, officer. Can I quickly go  
17 outside? I want to give my wife something." And  
18 that was ...

19 Q. I think you said you walked down the  
20 tunnel, you were halfway down the tunnel?

21 A. Halfway down the tunnel, yes.

22 Q. By tunnel, have you ever heard --  
23 excuse me. Have you ever heard it referred to as  
24 the Jetway?

25 A. I have never heard it.

1 A. Akinyemi

2 Q. You just mean the hallway after they  
3 take your boarding pass but before you get on the  
4 plane?

5 A. Before you get on the plane.

6 Q. So you were about halfway down and  
7 you stopped --

8 A. And came back out.

9 Q. Did you ever set foot on the plane?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Other than what you have testified  
12 to, which is you realized you had \$150 you needed  
13 to give back to your cousin for the excess  
14 baggage, was there any other reason why you turned  
15 around and came back through the tunnel?

16 A. No.

17 Q. After you exited back from the  
18 tunnel, what happened?

19 A. That was another sad day for me,  
20 because my intention was asking the officer, can I  
21 do this? And to this point I was expecting "yes"  
22 or "no." All of a sudden my question leads to my  
23 interrogation.

24 Then the officer -- it is a male and  
25 female officer. Then the officer said, "Oh, where

1 A. Akinyemi

2 are you going?" I said, "Where am I going as how?  
3 I just came to tell you that can I just go and  
4 give something to my wife that I forgot in my  
5 pocket?" He said, "No. I mean where are you  
6 traveling to?" I said, "I am going to Nigeria."  
7 He said, "You are going to Nigeria? Where is your  
8 passport and your ticket?" "This is my passport  
9 and my ticket. And what do you do?"

10 I told him, I am a limo driver.

11 "Where did you get -- where did you get the money  
12 to buy ticket? I said, I worked for it. Then he  
13 said, a lot of questioning. At that time I was  
14 like why am I -- what is all this about? I am  
15 saying that to myself. All I need from you is  
16 just yes or no. The next thing he said, "Oh,  
17 where is your wife?" I said, "My wife is outside.  
18 And now that I have spoken to her she is almost at  
19 the parking lot. Can I call her or can I just go  
20 outside to meet her? That was what I needed from  
21 you."

22 He said, "Oh, no." A lot of  
23 questions that I can't even start talking. So at  
24 that point in time he started saying, "Oh. How  
25 did you get the money? What do you do? Where is

1 A. Akinyemi

2 your wife?" She is out in the parking lot. She  
3 must have been in the parking lot now. Okay?  
4 Then I called my wife to at least meet me outside  
5 by the TSA so I can at least give her the money.  
6 So along that line the female officer said, "Oh,  
7 yes, let him go." But the male officer said,  
8 "No." Then it was at that time I told him that,  
9 "Officers, my wife is a colleague of yours." She  
10 is a custom and border protection officer like  
11 you. Then the male officer now asked me, your  
12 wife? Your wife is a custom officer? I said,  
13 yes. What is her name? I gave her the name.  
14 Then the female officer now said -- because the  
15 male officer asked her, have you ever heard that  
16 name before? Then the female officer said, "that  
17 name rings a bell. Well, I really can't picture  
18 her face.

19 Then at that point in time we were  
20 like in the sitting area. The officer said, "In  
21 that case, why don't you just call her?" Then  
22 that was when I called my wife and she came and I  
23 gave her the money.

24 Q. Other than what you just testified  
25 to, you have said that -- you used the words

1 A. Akinyemi

2 interrogation and you said that there was a lot of  
3 questioning. Other than what you have testified  
4 to, do you recall any of the other questions that  
5 were asked of you or your answers?

6 A. Most of the questions he asked was  
7 like, your wife, where is your wife from? Then I  
8 told her, she is a Nigerian American. Probably  
9 from before my wife came. Then after my wife came  
10 the lady said, "Oh, I know her."

11 Probably the officer asked me,  
12 "Where does your wife work?" Then I said, "She  
13 works at the Federal building in Newark, New  
14 Jersey, Raymond Boulevard." That was when I told  
15 her she works there and when my wife came  
16 approached us like oh -- the female said, "Oh, I  
17 know her." And she came and I gave her the money  
18 there in their presence, \$150, and we kiss and I  
19 went back in.

20 Q. Anything else about the conversation  
21 with the CBP officers that you remember?

22 A. That's what I can remember right  
23 now. That's the only one I remember.

24 Q. Tell me what happened when your wife  
25 came back when she approached. What did you say

1 A. Akinyemi

2 to her?

3 A. I just told her that -- on the phone  
4 I told her, please come and take this money from  
5 me to give to my cousin to pay his bill, when his  
6 bill comes -- when the bill -- you know, because I  
7 don't want the situation where my cousin will  
8 receive the bill and realize that why would they  
9 charge me twice? You know, so I said, come and  
10 take the money so you can give him to pay the  
11 bill. That was the conversation with her.

12 Q. When you were talking with the CBP  
13 officers after you came back out from the tunnel,  
14 where were you talking to them?

15 A. They were right by the sitting area.

16 Q. And when your wife came back and  
17 approached you, where were you standing?

18 A. I was by that sitting area.

19 Q. Did your wife speak with the CBP  
20 officers?

21 A. I mean they are colleagues. She is  
22 in uniform they would have said, hello, how are  
23 you. But I can't remember what they said.

24 Q. I think you testified that you gave  
25 your wife \$150?

1 A. Akinyemi

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did you give your wife anything  
4 else?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Did your wife give you anything?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Other than giving your wife the  
9 \$50 --

10 A. \$150.

11 Q. Sorry.

12 -- the \$150, what do you remember  
13 about your conversation with your wife?

14 A. That was the only conversation we  
15 had. And part of the conversation we said it on  
16 the phone that, you know, come and take this money  
17 and give it to my cousin.

18 Q. How long was your wife, after she  
19 returned from when she left again, how long was  
20 she there for?

21 A. It's just a matter of this is the  
22 money and we hug. That was it.

23 Q. I think you said less than three  
24 minutes. Is that what you said?

25 A. Less than three minutes.

1 A. Akinyemi

2 Q. Then what happened after that?

3 A. After that I went in the plane.

4 Q. Did you have any further discussion  
5 with the CBP officer?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did you have any discussion with any  
8 representative from Air France?

9 A. No.

10 Q. It was an Air France plane?

11 A. It was Air France.

12 Q. I forgot to ask. Did you have a  
13 discussion with any Air France representative when  
14 you were -- after you had had your boarding a  
15 taken? Did you ever have another discussion with  
16 an Air France representative?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And so after your wife left --

19 A. I just went back in.

20 Q. And boarded the plane?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And did you get back off the plane  
23 after that?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Have you ever discussed any of the